THE HISTORY OF John Cheap THE CHAPMAN

Containing above a HUNDRED Merry Exploits done by him and his Fellow Traveller,

Drouthy TOM, a Sticket Shaver.

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JOHN CHEAP the chapman was a cornical short thick fellow, with a broad face and long nose; both lame and lazie, and something learcherous among the laffes: he chuſed rather to ſit idle than work at any time, as he was a hater of hard labour. No man needed to offer him cheeſe and bread after he curſt, he would not have it; for he would bluſh at bread and milk when hungry, as a beggar doth at a babee. He got the name of John Cheap the Chapman, by ſelling of twenty needles for a penny, and two leather laces for a farthing

He ſwore no oaths but one, which was let me never ſin

He uſed no imprecations, but let me never cheat nor be cheated, but rather cheat, &c.

He gave bad council to none but children to burn the bone combs, that their mother might buy another when he came again.

He never fought any but with dogs, and the good wives daughters in their daſſing, and that's not dangerous.

The following relation is taken from his own mouth verbatim.

I John Cheap by chance, at ſome certain time, doubtleſs againſt my will, was born at the Hottom near Habertoy boy miln; my father was a Scots Highlandman, and my mother a Yorkſhire wench, but honeſt, which cauſes me to be of a mangeral kind; I made myſelf a chapman when very youug, in great hopes of being rich when I became old, but fortune was fickle and ſo was I; for I had not been a Chapman about two days, until I began to conſider the danger of deep ditches, midden dubs, bitting dogs and bogles in barns, banſter wives, and wiet ſacks, and what comfort is it ſays I to

ly in a cows oxter the length of a cold winter night to ſit behind backs till the kail be a cutied up, and then I lick colly's leavings.

My firſt journey was through old Kilpatrick, all the day long I got no meat nor money. Until the evening I began to aſk for lodging then every wife to get me away would either give me a cog full of kail or a piece of cake: well ſais I to myſelf, if this be the way, I ſhall begin on the morning to aſk for lodging or any time when I am hungray: thus I continued going from houſe to houſe until my belly was like to burſt, and my Pockets could hold no more: at laſt I came to a farmers houſe, but thinking it not time enough to prevail for lodging ſat down upon a ſtone at the end of the houſe till day light would go away out of the weſt, and as I was going to get up to go into the houſe out comes the goodwife as I ſuppoſed her to be, and ſat down at the one end of the ſtone, I being at the other, ſhe began to make of her water with full force, which I bore with very modeſtly till near an end; then ſhe made the wind follow with ſuch force, as made, as I thought, the very ſtone to move I leaned upon which made me to burſt out into laughter: then up gaits the wife and runs for it, I followed hard after into the houſe, and as entered the door, I heard the goodman ſaying, Ay, ay goodwife, what's the haſte you rin ſo?

No more paſſed untill I adreſſed myſelf to the goodman for quarters; which he anſwered, indeed lad we have nae beds but three, my wife and I, our ſells twa, and the bits a littleens Willie and Jenny the twa lads. our twa ſervant men Wlilie Black and Tam lies in anither, and auld Maggs my mither and the laſs Jean Thrum lies the gither and fills them a'. O but ſays I goodman there is ſome of them fuller than others you may let me ly with

your mother and the laſs, I ſhall ly heads and thraws wi' them, and keep on my breeks: a good keep me quoth the laſs frae a' temptations to ſin altho' thou be but a callant hath I'll rather ly wi' Sannock Garner; hut awa' quoth the auld wife, the poor lad may ly on a bottle of ſtrae beyond the fire; no no, cries the goodwife, he,s no be hear the night or I'ſe no be hear; dear goodwife ſaid I what ails you at me! if you will not let me ſtay, you'll not hinder me to go where I pleaſe. Ay ay, ſaid ſhe, gae whare ye like, then I got in beyond the fire beſide the goodman: now ſaid I goodwife, I like to be here, a d——l be here, ane ye be here, this night ſaid ſhe ho, ho, ſaid I but I'm here firſt; and firſt com'd firſt ſerv'd goodwife; but an the ill theif be a friend of yours, you'll have room for him too: ye thief like wideſu ſaid ſhe, are ye evening me to be ſib to the foul thief; It's well kend I am com'd of good honeſt fouks, le may be ſo goodwife ſaid I, but ye look rather the otherway, when ye would lodge the d——l in your houſe, and ca' out a poor chapman to die in ſuch a ſtormy night as this what do you ſay, ſaid ſhe, there was nae a bonnier night ſince winter came in nor this. O goodwife what are you ſaying. Do you not mind when you and I was at the eaſt end of the houſe, ſuch a noiſe of wind and water was there, I wae worth the filthy body, ſaid ſhe, is not that in every part? what ſaid the goodman a wat well there was nae rain when I came in; the wife then ſhot me out and bolted the door behind me; weil ſaid I, but I ſh.ll be through between thy mouth and thy noſe or the morrow. It being now ſo dark, and I a ſtranger, could ſee no place to go to, went into the cornyard but finding no looſe ſtraw I fell a drawing one of their ſtacks, ſhafe by ſhafe, until I had pulled out a threave or two, and got into the hole myſelf

where I lay as warm as pye; but the goodman on the morning perceiving the heap of corn ſheaves came running to carry them away, and ſhut up the hole in the ſtack wherein I lay, with ſome of the ſhaves, ſo with the ſhuffling of the ſtraw, and him talking to others, curſing thieves who had done it; ſwearing they had ſtole ſix threave of it; I than ſkipping out of the hole, ho ho, ſaid I goodman, you're not to bury me alive in your ſtack; he than began to chide me vowing he would keep my pack for the damage I had done, where upon I took his ſervants witneſs he had robbed me, when hearing me urge him ſo, he gave me my pack again, and off I came to the next houſe, where I told the whole ſtory,

My next exploit was near Carluck, between Hamiltown and Lanerk: who on a cold ſtormy night I came to a little town with four or five houſes in it, I went twice through it, but none of them would give me the credit to ſtand all night among their horſes or yet to ly in their cows oxter; at laſt I prevailed with a wife if her huſband was willing to let me ſtay, ſhe would and ſent me to the barn to aſk him, and I meeting him at the barn door carrying in ſtraw for his horſes I told him his wife would let me ſtay if he was not againſt it, to which he anſwered, 'If I ſhould ly in his mid-'den dub I ſhould get no quarters from him that 'night, a whine lazie idle villains runs a to be 'Chapman comes through the country ſ ſhing 'ſouks ay ſeeking quarters; the next day ye'll be 'gaun wi' a powder'd perewig, and a watch at your 'arſe, and winna let ſouks ſtand afore your ſhop 'ye'll be ſo fancy', I hearing this my ſentence from the goodman, expected no relief but to ly without, yet I perceived when he came out of the barn, he only drew the door too behind him: ſo

when he was gone I ſlipt into the barn, and by help of one of the kupples climbs up to the mow, and there dived down among the ſhaves, and happed myſelf all over, ſo that I lay as warm as the goodman, himſelf: but in the morning long before day two fellows came into the barn and fell a threſhing, that by their diſturbance I could ſleep no more; at laſt I got up with all my hair hanging over my face and when he that ſtood on the oppoſite ſide perceived me I made my eyes to role, and wrayed my face in a frightful manner, ſo that the poor fellow ſuppoſed he had ſeen the d—— l or ſomething as ill, gave a roar as if he had been ſticket, and out at the door he runs: the other fellow after him crying, wha' Johnny man what did you ſee; O! Sandy Sandy, the d—— l's o' the tap of the mow ſheavling his mouth at me, I'll not be ſo well this month man, my heart's out o' its hole, wow but yon ſhe a fearful like face indeed, it wou'd fright any living creature out of their ſeven ſenſes.

I hearing the fear they were in, cried unto them not to be frighted for I was not the d—— l but a poor Chapman who could not get quarters laſt night a foul fa' thy carcaſe ſtir, for our Jock is through the midden dub, dirt and a' the gither; he who went laſt came again, but the other run into the houſe and told what he had ſeen; the goodman and his wife came running, he with the grape in his hand and her with the Bible, and one crying, Sandy Sandy, it it true the d—— l was in the barn na. na, ſaid he, its but a Chapman: but poor Jock has gotten a fright wi' him. They lauched heartily at the ſport took me to breakfait, and by this time poor Johnny was gone to bed very ſick.

After this I travelled up the water of Clyde near the foot of Tintock hill where I met with a ſweet companion who was an older traveller than I, who

gave me more information how to blow the goods wife for two months, and as we travelled down Tweed towards the border we being both hungry, and could get nothing to buy for the belly, we came unto a wife who had been kirning but ſhe would gives us nothing, nor ſell ſo much as one halfpenny worth of her ſour milk: na, na, ſaid ſhe, I'll neither ſell butter, bread nor milk, it's a' little enough to ſair my ain family, ye that's Chapmens may drink water ye dinna work ſair, ay but goodwife ſaid I but I have been at Temple bar, where I was ſworn never to drink water, if I could get better: what do you ſay, ſaid ſhe, about Temple bar? a Town juſt about two three miles and a bittock frae this a thief a en was to ſwear him there, in it waſna auld Willie Miller the cobler, the ill thief a nither miniſter nor magiſtrate, ever was in't a'

O but ſays the other lad, the Temple bar he means by is at London. Yea yea, lad, and ye be com'd frae London ye're little worth. London ſaid he, is but at home to the place he comes from, dear man quoth ſhe, and whare in a the warld comes he frae; all the way from Italie whare the pope a Rome dwells ſaid he, a ſweet be wi' us quoth ſhe, for the fouks there awa' is a' witches and warlocks, deels, brownies and faries. Well I wat, that is true ſaid I, and that thou ſhalt know thou hard hearted wretch, who would have people to ſtarve or provoke them to steal, with that I roſe and lifts two or three long ſtraws, and caſting knots on them in to the byre I went, and throws a knotted ſtraw to every cows ſtake, ſaying thy days ſhall not be lang: the wife followed wringing her hands, earnestly praying for herſelf and all that was hers. I then came out at the door, and lifted a ſtone, running three times round about and threw it over the houſe running three times round about which I kue[illegible]

myſelf what I was ſaying, concluded with theſe words, thou monſiour Diable, brother Belzebub god of Ekron take this wife's kirn, butter and milk, ſap, and ſubſtance without and within ſo that ſhe may die in miſery, as ſhe would have others to live.

The wife hearing the aforeſaid ſentence, clapt her hands, and called out anither old woman as fooliſh as herſelf whom came crying after us to come again, and again went, where ſhe made us eat heartly of butter and cheeſe; then ſhe earnestly pleaded with me to go and lift my cantrups again, which I did upon her promiſing never to deny a hungry traveller meat nor drink whether he has money to pay for't or not: and never to ſerve the poor with the old proverb, go home to your own pariſh, but gave them leſs or more as the ſee'd them in need. This ſhe faithfully promiſed to do while ſhe lived, and with milk we drank towards the cows good health and her own not forgetting her huſbands and the bulls, as the one was goodman of the houſe and the other of the byre; and away we came in all haſte, leaſt ſome of the moſe underſtanding nature ſhould come to hear of it and follow after us.

In a few days thereafter we came to an ale houſe in a moor far diſtant from any other, it being a ſore day of wind and rain, we could not travel was obliged to ſtay there, and the houſe being ſo throng, could get no bed but the ſervants laſſes, which we was to have for a penny worth of pins and needles and ſhe was to ly with her maſter and her miſtreſs, but as was going to bed in comes three Highland drovers, on their way home from England, the landlord told them that the beds were all taken up but one that two Chapman was to ly in one of them ſwore his broad ſword ſhould fail him

if a chapman lay there that night. They took our bed, and made us sit by the fire all night, I put on a good many peats, and when the drovers were fast asleep I put on a big brass pan full of water and boils their brogs therein for the space of half an hour, then lays them as they were, every pair by themselves, so when they arose every one began to chid one another, saying hup, hup, we shein a borgs for not on pair of them would serve a child of ten years old, being so boil'd in, the landlord perswaded them that their feet was swelled with their hard travelling, and being so wet the last night, and they would go on well enough if they had travelled a mile or twa. Now the highlandmen laughed at me the night before, when they lay down in the bed I was to have, but I laughed as much to see them all three trot away in the morning with their boil'd brogs in their hands.

PART II.

WE again came to a place near Sutre-hill, where the ale was good and civil usage and our drought being very great the more we drank the better we lov'd it, and here we fell in company with a Quack Doctor who bragged us with bottle about for two days and two nights only, when one fell drunk we pulled and pricked him up with a pin, to keep him from sleeping; he bought of our hair, and we of his pills and drugs, he having as much knowledge of the one as we had of the other only I was sure I had as much as set a whole parish to the midden or mug ail at once; but the profit though all to come went to the landlady to make up her loss of having the lime pish'd off her doo cheeks, and what we did not piss, we scyth'd thro' our teeth, and gave the dog the gri: bits.

But at laſt our money run ſhort, and the landlady had no chalk nor faith to credit us, ſeeing by our coats, courage, and conduct, that we would little mind performance againſt the day of payment: ſo then we began to turn ſober and wiſe behind the hand, and every one of us to ſeek ſuply from another and when we collected all the money we had amongſt us on the table, was but four pence halfpenny which we lovingly pivided amongſt us, being only three babees a piece, as as dru hy Tom's ſtock and mine was conjunct. we gave the Quaker again his ſh——ing ſtuff and ſtiv'ing mugs, and he gave us our goods nd pickles of hair, which we equally divided betwixt us the whole of it only came to eighteen ſhillings and ſixpence prime coſt, and ſo we parted, I went for Eaſt Lothian, and Tom for the weſt but my ſorting of goods being very unſuitable for that couutry I got but little or no money, which cauſed me to apply to the goodman for to get lodging, and it being upon a Saturday's night, was very hard to be found, till very late in the night, I prevailed to get ſtaying in a great Farmers houſe about two miles from Haddington they were all at ſupper when I went in: I was ordered to ſit down behind their backs, the goodwife then took a diſh, went round the ſervants and collected a ſoup out of every cog which was ſufficient to have ſerved three men; the goodwife ordered me to be laid in the barn all night for my bed but the bully fac'd goodman ſwore he had too much uff in it to venture me there, the goodwife ſaid I ſhould not lie in the houſe, for I would be o'er near the laſſes bed, the lads ſwore I ſhould not go with them for I was a forjeſket like fellow. and (wha kens whither I was honeſt or not), he may fill his wallat wi' our claiths and gang his wa or day light: at laſt I was conducted out to the ſwines ſtye, to ſleep

with an old ſow and ſeven pigs, and here I lay for two nights. Here now I began to reflect on the ſowre fruits of drinking, an own all the miſery juſt that was come on me: in the night the young pigs came guqeling about me very kindly thinking I was ſome friend of their mother's came to viſit them, they gave me but little reſt, always coming kiſſing me with their cold noſes, which cauſed me to beat them off with my ſtaff, which cauſed them to make a terrible noiſe, that their old mother come at laſt to argument of the matter running, upon me with an open mouth: but I gave her ſuch a rout over her lang ſnout, which cauſed her roar out murder in her own languge, that alarmed the ſervants where they lay, who came to ſee what was the matter, I told them their old ſow was going to ſwallow me up alive, I bad them go and bring her meat, which they did, and the brute became peaceable.

On the ſabbath morning I came into the houſe, the goodman aſked me if I could ſhave any, yes, ſaid I but never did on the ſabbath day: I fancy ſaid he you are ſome weſtland whig, ſir, ſaid I you may ſuppoſe me to be what you think proper to day but, yeſternight you uſed me like a Torry, when you ſent me into a ſtye to lye in your ſow's oxter, who is a fiter companion for a devil than any humane creature, the abominableſt brute that is on the earth ſaid I, who was forbid to be eat under the law, and curſed under the goſpel, be they curs'd or be they bliſs'd ſaid he, I wiſh I had a new of them, but an ye will not take of my beard yes get nae meat here the day, then ſaid I if you will not give me meat and drink for money until the ſabbath day be paſt, I'll take on my wallat and go along with you to the kirk, and tell your miniſter how you uſed me like a hogg, no, ſaid the good-

wife you ſhall not want your crowdie man; but my heart being full of ſor ow and revenge a few of them ſuffice me, whereon I paſt over that long day, and at night went to ſleep with my old companions, which was not found, being afraid of miſtreſs ſow s.e n.g to re v n ge the quarrel we had the night before.

On the morning I went into the houſe, the goodman ordered me the pottage pot to lick for ſaid he is an old property to chapmen well I had no ſooner begun to it, then out comes a great big maſtive dog from below me, and gripps me be the breaſt, then turns me over upon my back and takes the pot himſelf, ay, ay, ſaid the goodman I think your brother pot licker and you can not gree about your breakfaſt? a well ſaid I goodman you ſaid that potlicking was a chapman's property, but your dog proves the contrary ſo away I comes, and meeting the goodwife at the door, bids her farewell forever, but what ſaid I is your huſbands name? to which ſhe anſwered John Swine, I was thinking ſo ſaid I, he has ſuch dirty faſhions but whether was yon his mother or his ſiſter I lay with this two nights.

All that day I travelled the country weſt from H ddington, but could get no meat; when I aſked if they had any to ſell they told me they never did ſell any bread, and I found by ſad experience they had none to give for nothing: I came unto a little country village and went through it all, houſe after houſe, and could neither get bread nor ale to buy: at laſt I came into a poor weavers houſe, and aſked him if he could lend me a hammer, yes ſaid he, what are you going to do with it ſays he? indeed ſaid I, I am going to knock out all my teeth with it for I can get no bread to buy in all this country for all the ſtores and ſtacks you have in it,

what said he was you in the miniſters? I know not ſaid I, does he keep an ale houſe? O na ſaid he, he preach s every Sunday: and what does he preach ſaid I? t i harden your hearts, hand well together hav no charity, hate ſtrangers hunger the poor, eat and drink all yourſelves, better burſt your bellies than give to the beggars, or let good meat ſpoil if your miniſter be as naughty as his people, I'm poſitive he'll drive a louſe to London for the hide and tallow. Here I bought the weavers dinner for two pence and then ſet out again keeping my courſe weſt ward, it being now night again, I came to a farmer's houſe ſouth from Dalkieth, the goodman being very civil and deſirous of news, I related the whole paſſages of the two days and two nights by-paſt whereat he was greatly diverted. It was ſaid, I was the firſt heard of, that ever that man gave quarters to before, though he was an elder of the pariſh. The goodman and I fell ſo kind, that he ordered me to be laid on a ſhake down bed beyond the fire, where I lay more ſnug than among the ſwine, now there was three women in a bed in the ſame apartment and they not minding that I was there, firſt one of them roſe and let her water go in below the chimney grate, where I had a perfect view of her bonny thing, as the coal fire burnt ſo clearly all the night, then another roſe and did the ſame, laſt of all got up the old matron, as ſhe appeared to be like a ſecond hand goodwife, or a whirled o'er maiden ſix times overturned, and as ſhe let her dam go, ſhe alſo with full force when done let a fart like the blaſt of a trumpet which made the ſtone on the hearth ſtone fly up like mist about her buttocks; whereat I was forced to laugh out, which made her to run for it, but to ſmother the laughter, ſtop the blankets in my mouth, ſhe went to bed and wakened the other two, ſaying O

dole! what will I tell you, yone chapman body has ſeen a' our a—ſes the night, ſhame fa' him ſaid they for we had nae mind he was there, I wat well ſays one of them I'ſe no riſe till he be awa', but ſaid the old woman gin he has ſeen mine I canna help it, it's juſt like other fouks and ſint a hair I care. On to-morrow the old matron got up firſt and ordered up the houſe, then told me to riſe for chapman and every body was up, then ſhe aſked me if I had an uſe of laughing in my ſleep yes ſaid I when I ſee any daft like thing, I can laugh and look at it as well ſleeping as waking; a good preſerve us ſaid ſhe ye're an uuco body, but ye need nae wait on our pottage, I'll gie yon cheeſe and bread in your pouch; which I willingly accepted and away I came.

Then I kept my courſe weſt by the foot of Penland hills, where I got plenty of hair good and cheap, beſides a great quantity of old braſs, which was an excellent article to make my little pack ſeem big and weighty. Then I came into a little country village, and going by the ſide of a houſe, there was a bit cat ſitting in a weaver's window beiking herſelf at the ſun, and waſhing herſelf with her feet I takes her a civil knap on the noſe, which made her run in back through the window, and the weaver having a plate full of hot pottage in the inſide to cool poor badrons run through the middle of them, burnt her feet and threw them all to the ground, run through the houſe crying fire and murder in her own language, which cauſed the weary wicked webſter to come running to the door, where he attacked me in a furious rage, and I to avoid the firſt ſhock fled to the top of the midden, where endeavouring to give me a kick I catched him by the foot and tumbled him back over into the dirty midden dub, where both his head and

ſhoulders went under dirt and water: but before I could recover my elwan or arms, the wicked wife and her two ſons was upon me in all quarters the wife hung in my hair while the two ſons boxed me about before, and being thus overpowered by numbers I was fairly beat by this wicked webſter, his troops being ſo numerous.

The ſame day as I was going up to a country houſe I met on the way a popr beggar wife and a boy, who was both bitten in different places by a big maſtiff dog: they perſwaded me to turn back, but I ſaid that I ſhould ſee him firſt. ſo up I goes to the ſide of a hedge, and cuts a long bremble of prickles, which I carried in my left hand with my ſturdy ſtaff in the right, and as I came near the houſe, Mr Youler came roaring upon me like a lion, he being a tyke of ſuch a monſtrous ſize frighted me ſo that I run back, but he purſued me ſo hard I was forced to face about and holding out the briar to him, which he gripped in his mouth, and then I ſtuped it through his teeth and gave him a hearty blow upon the ear with my rung, which made him go tumbling towards his maſters door, and when he got he would not fight any, his mouth being ſo full of prickles by his biting of the briar which cauſed him go about youling and rubbing his mouth with his foot; the people of the houſe come running out to ſee what was the matter I then ſhewed them the briar and telling them their dog came running to bite me, but my briar had bitten him; they then called him in and fell to picking the pricks out of his tongue

On Saturdays night thereafter, I was like to be badly off for quarters, I travelled until many people were gone to bed at laſt I came into a farmer's houſe. and aſked what they would buy. naming twenty fine thing which I never had, and then aſk-

ed for quarters which they very freely granted, thinking I was some gentle chapman with a rich pack, but I being weary with travel could take but little or no supper; and being permitted to ly in the spence beside the goodman's bed, the goodwife being very hard of hearing, she thought that every body was so, when she went to bed she cried out, a how Harie is nae yone a bra' moderate chapman wi' hae here the night, he took just seven soups o' our sowens and that fill'd him su', a dear Andrew man, turn ye about and take my cald a—rse in a your warm lunchock. On the morrow I went to the kirk with the goodman and missing him about the kirk door, went into the middle of the kirk, but could not see no empty seats but one big form where nane sat but one woman by herself: and so set myself down beside her, not knowing where I was until sermon was over, when the minister began to rebuke her; for using her merry bit against law or licence: and then she began to whinge and yule like a dog, which made me to run out cursing, before the minister had given the blessing, I then came home to my lodging house, and then went to dinner with the goodman, and it being the custom in that place to eat pease bread to their broth, and corn cakes to their flesh, so the goodwife laid down a corn scone and a pease scone to the goodman, and the same to me, the pease one for the broth and the corn one for the beef, and as the goodman and I sat together, when he brake off a piece of the pease bread to his broth, I was sure to break as much of oat cake below it, and when he came to eat the flesh did the same, so that he eat the coarse and I the fine.

PART. III.

I Travelled the weſt by Falkirk by the foot of the great hills; and one night after I had got lodging in a farmer's houſe, there happend a conteſt between the goodman and his mother he being a young man unmarried as underſtood, and formerly their ſowens had been too thin; ſo the goodman being a ſowen birly man of that barronry came to ſurvey the ſowens before they went on the fire, and actually ſwore they were o'er thin and ſhe ſwore by her conſcience they would be thick enough if ill hands and ill een bide awa' frae them; a ſweet be here mither ſaid he do ye tkink that I am a witch? witch here or witch there ſaid the wife, ſwearing by her ſaul and that was nae banning ſhe ſaid they'll be good ſubſtantial meat; a' what ſay ye chapman? Indeed goodwife ſa'd I, ſowens is but faſt meat at the beſt, but if ye mak them thick enough, and put a good lump of butter in them ſh y'll do very we'll for a ſupper; I true ſae lad ſaid ſhe ye hae ſome ſenſe: ſo the old woman put on the pot with her ſowens and went to milk her cows, leaving me to ſteer, the goodman her ſon, as ſoon as ſhe went out took a great cog full of water and put it into the pot amongſt the ſowens, and then went out of the houſe and left me alone: I conſidered what ſort of a piſh the bed ſupper I was to get if I ſtayed there, I though fit to ſet out, but takes up a pitcher with water and fills up the pot until it was running over, and then takes up my pack and comes about a mile farther that night, leaving the honeſt woman and her ſon to ſup their watrie wite and ſowens at their own leaſure.

I then turned towards the east through a place called Slamaned, and was lodged one night near a place called Tods bughts, where there was a boul-horn'd goodwife, but a very civil goodman, when I went in she took up a dish from the dog wherein was a few ite had left? and with a collection more from other cogs she offered them to me, which I refused, 'im said she, ye're a lordly sort of a chapman indeed, so I began to devert the goodman by telling him a deal of fine stories to make him laugh, but could not get near the fire, at last I said, O! goodwif I'll tell you news, ie chapman what's that said she, indeed my feet s very cauld said I, whereat they all lauched but the goodwife, she glum'd until the rest was done and then took a laugh at it herself; so the goodman ordered the Johnnys Jamies and Jennys, with their wheels to sit about, then I was set beyond the fire and preferred to steer their sowens, but when they were ready and put up in dishes, the goodwife ordered one of the lads to take a pair of old blankets and two sacks, and show me where I was to ly in the barn: ho, ho, thinks I there s no supper for me, but I'll remember this, to pay her stock annual; so I went to the barn, and lay till next morning about chapman's rising time when pottage was ready and then gives the wife a fine cord lace and a few pins, which pleased her so well that she went through the cogs and collected about a mutchkin of pottage f r me, for which I thanked her; an at well lad said she, an ye be coming by ony time ye's be welcome to a night o' our b rn, if ye hae nae steald naething, thanks to you goodwife said I that' very fair; indeed lad it's not every ane weel trust wi' our new barn, farefore sud we, O goodwife it would be a great thief that wad run awa wi' a barn on his back, I wonder

that ye let it ſtand out by all night: but awa ye daſt body, how can we get it in, ke awa chapman ye're jocking me now. I then took a turn round the country for two weeks, and then came back to be avenged on the naughty wife and her ſowens: it being very dark or I came in, the goodwife did not know me, but made her ſpeech as follows, in ſaid ſhe ye's no be here, for there's ſo many thieves and robbers gaun athort the country an our goodman's no at hame, is thou honeſt enough? I can want nothing of my honeſty goodwife, but did you ever ſee any people going through the kintry telling they were thieves na awat well no ſaid ſhe? then ſaid I, I'm ſure I did not take away your barn on my back laſt time I was here; yea lad ſaid ſhe are ye the chapman that cracked ſo well to our goodman come in by ye's get a night o' the barn yet, thanks to you goodwife in we ſhould get nae mair, I then being preferred to my old ſeat and got the ſowens to ſteer till they were near ready; when the goodwife ordered the lad to tak the blankets and ſhow me my bed in the barn, I then gave the ſowens the laſt turn, and having about the bigneſs of a nut of C———d——p and drops into the pot, then went off to the barn as faſt as I could, and made faſt both the doors within, leſt the bewitched ſowens out of the pot ſhould attack me in my ſleep, next morning when I came in the goodwife began to pray for herſelf and all that ſhe had, ſaying, it is Wedneſday morning through all the warld, and good be between you and me chapman, for ye're either a witch or a warlock or ſomething that's no canny for ye witch't our ſowens laſt night for they gad mad, rages out of the pot boiling and bizing like barm, I thought they wad run out to the barn to ſee how they fill'd up my milk tab and a the dishes in the houſe

is fu' o' them; dear goodwife ſaid I they were very good when I left them, though I did not priee them, and I wiſh'd you as much good of them as I got, but ſurely they're not witch't, but a bleſſing in them when they are ſo multiplied, ke awa cried ſhe in a paſſion, ye're no canny, ye's ne'er be here again, I need not value that ſaid I, for I have naething to thank you for but my dinner, ſupper, and breakfaſt, and for a night of your barn I'll pay you when I come back: Ay ay ſaid ſhe ye need nae thank me for what ye did nae get that's not my fault, goodleſs wife ſaid I proſper to you and your ſowens

Tha next little town I came to in the firſt houſe which I entered, the wife cried out a plague on your ſnout ſtir ye filthy black guard chapman like b——— h it ye are, the laſt time ye came by here, ye gar'd our Sandy burn a comb it I gide a ſixpence for in Falkirk ay did ye and ſae did enn, and ſaid ye wad gie him a muckle clear button to do it: then ſaid I, I never had ado with you a the days of my life and do not ſay your Sandy is mine, a waer? with the body, am I ſaying had a do with me, I wadna hae to do wi' the like of you, nor I'm ſure with them I never ſaw, but what about the button and bone comb goodwife? Sannock, is na this the man? I is't, cried the boy, gie me my button, for I burnt the comb, and ſhe maved me for't, ke awa' ſir, ſaid I, your mother and you is but mocking me: It was either you or ane like you, or ſome other body. O goodwife I mind what it is now, it's ane juſt like me, when you ſee the tane you ſee the tither, they ca' him Jock Jimpither: a wae worth him, quoth the wife, if I winna thraple him for my good bone comb. Now, ſaid I, goodwife be good, bridle your paſſion and buy a bone comb and a coloured napkin, I'll give you a whaken

penny-worth will gar you ſing in your bed, if I ſhould ſell you the tae half and giſt you the tither, an I gar you pay for every inch o't ſweetly or a' be done. Hech man, ſaid ſhe, ye're a hearty follow, and I hae need o' a' theſe things, for my Sannock's head's a hotchen, and our John's a little better, and for to let them alane but ae night days, they'll grow like groſerts; and here I ſold a bone comb and a napkin, and the gide ſuch a doſe as I had no hand in making her boy burn the bone comb.

The next houſe I came into, there was a very little taylor ſitting on a table, like a t——d on a trunchard, with his legs plet over other, made me imagine he was a three footed taylor; firſt I ſold him a thimble, and then he wanted needles, which I ſhewed him one paper after another he looked to their eyes, and trying their nibs in his ſleeve, drop'd the ones he thought proper on the ground betwixt his feet, where he ſat in a dark corner near the fire, thinking I would not perceive him: O ſaid he, them needles of yours is not good man, I'll no buy any of them; I do not think you need, ſaid I, taking them out of his hand, and lights a candle as ſtanding near by, come, ſaid I, ſit about you thieving dog till I get up my needles, gathers up ten of them, come ſaid he, I'll buy twal penny's worth o' them frae you I troubled you ſo muckle, no ſaid I, you houſe dog, I'll ſell you none, if there's any on the ground ſeek them up, and ſtap them in a beaſt's arſe, but if ye were a man, I would burn you in the fire, though it be in your own houſe but as you are a poor taylor, and neither man nor boy, I'll do nothing but expoſe you for what you are O! dear honeſt chapman, cried his wife, ye manna do that, and ays gie you cheeſe and bread. No, no ye thieves I'm for nothing but vengeance, no bribes for ſuch: So as

I was lifting my pack, there was a pretty black cat which I ſpread my napkin over and took the four corners in my hand, carrying her as a bundle, until I came about the middle of the town; then provoking the dog to an engagment with me, ſo there came upon me four or five collies, then I threw the poor taylor's cat in the middle of them, there a terrible battle enſued ſo ſome time, and badrons had certainly died on the field had I not interpoſed and got her o mortally wounded, the people who ſaw the battle alarmed the taylor, and he ſallied out like a great champion with his elwand in his hand, go back ſaid I, you louſie dog, or I'll tell about the needles, at which word he turned about, and went into an alehouſe to get ſome breakfaſt, there they aſked me where I was all night as it was uſual in that country for chapmen to get meat where they lodged, I told where it was, but could take none of their meat becauſe ſaid I they ſeem to me not to be canny, for this morning they are making rops of cold ſowens to crowen their ſtacks wi' ke a wa cried the wife I can not believe it if ye will not believe it die in your ignorance for me, the wife ſent away her ſon to ſee if it was ſo, but or he came back I ſet out: and travelled down the ſide of a water called Evan; and as I was coming paſt a mill-dam there was a big clowiſh fellow lifting a pitcher of water out of the ſaid dam ſo as he dipt it full and ſet down on the ground ſtaring at me he tumbled in himſelf out of ſight, o'er head and ears, and as ſoon as he got out again, I ſaid ye ho did you get the fiſh? what on a fiſh, ye b —— h, O ſaid I, I thought you had ſeen a fiſh, when you jumpt in to make it jump out; what a d —— l ſir are ye mocking me, turns round his pitcher and gives me a kick on the arſe,

ſo that I fell deſignedly on his pitcher, and it tumbled down the bank and went in pieces his maſter and another man looking and lauching at us, the poor fellow complained of me to him, but got no ſatisfaction.

The ſame evening as I was going towards the town of Lithgow meets on old crabbet fellow riding upon an old gly'd mare, which he always was threſhing upon with his ſtick, good'een to you goodman ſaid I are ye going to the bull wi' your mare? What do you ſay ſir, they gang to the bull wi' a cow ye brute, O yes goodman ye're right ſaid I but how do they call that he beaſt that rides on the mares back, they ca't a cuſſer, ſir, a well then good'een to you Mr Cuſſer he rides a little but then turns back in a rage, ſaying I ſay ſir, your laſt words i- war nor your firſt, he comes back at the flight to ride me down, but I ſtruck his beaſt on the face and in the ſhort turn about t fell yetur I could get my pack to the ground he cut me on the head at the firſt ſtroke, and then getting clear of the pack, played it away for ſome time, till by blows on the face I made him blood at booth mouth and noſe, then he cried out chapman we are baith daft, for we'll fell ourſels, and make nothing o't we had better gree, with all my heart ſaid I and what will ye buy; nothing but a pair of beard ſheers ſaid he, and gie me them cheap ſo I told him a pair of penny ſheers for three halfpence, and gave him a needle, then parted good friends after the battle was over

So I went to Lithgow that night where I met with drouthy Tom my ſweet and dear companion for here we had a moſt terriable encounter with the tippeny for two nights and a day and then we ſet out for Fyfe on the hair order, by the way of Torry burn and Culros, and coming to a parcel of women

washing by a water side, buys of one their hairs and in the time I was cutting of it, I comes all a courting and kissing a girl among them who was of the haveral sort, what happened I know not but she cried out ye misleart filthy fellow, ye put your hands a tween my feet, there indeed anither thing sud be ther ; a ill dance on your picture cried an old wife, for mony ane hae tane me be there in their daffing and I ne'er said a wor about it, a wheen daft jades canna you hud your tongues when its to your shame ye speak, ke awa cried the lass the filthy body it he is, the last chapman that kist me had a horse pack but he'll hae naething in his but a wisp of strae some auld breeks hares skins, and maukens skins, ony thing that fills the bags, and bears bouk ; and yet he would kiss and handle me, hech I was made for a better fellow ane of them came by ae day and sell'd our Meg twa ell and a quarter of linen to be her bridal sark for he had nae mair, and when she made it and put it on, it wadna hide her hach, hech ha.

FINIS.

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